

**The CASSELL**  

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**AND**  
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## auto

**auto** (aw'tō) *n.* (*pl. autos*) (*esp. N.Am.*) short for **AUTOMOBILE**.  
**auto-** (aw'tō), **aut-** *comb. form* 1 self. 2 one's own. 3 from within or by oneself. 4 operating independently; self-propelling, self-regulating.  
**autobahn** (aw'təbahn) *n.* a motorway in Germany, Austria or Switzerland.  
**autobiography** (aw'təbi'ɔgrəfi) *n.* (*pl. autobiographies*) 1 a memoir of one's life, written by oneself. 2 the writing of one's own memoirs. **autobiographer** *n.* **autobiographic** (-grəf-), **autobiographical** *a.* **autobiographically** *adv.*  
**autocar** (aw'təkəh) *n.* a vehicle driven by its own mechanical power, a motor vehicle.  
**autocephalous** (aw'təsef'ələs, -kef-) *a.* 1 (of an eastern Church) having the power to appoint its own synod, bishop etc. 2 (of a bishop, Church) independent. **autocephaly** *n.*  
**autochthon** (aw'tok'thən, -thōn) *n.* (*pl. autochthons, autochthones* [-thənēz]) 1 any one of the original or earliest known inhabitants. 2 an aboriginal animal or plant.  
**autochthonous** *a.* 1 native, indigenous. 2 (*esp. Geol.*) occurring, formed or originating in the place where found.  
**autoclave** (aw'təklāv) *n.* 1 a sealed vessel used for chemical reactions at high temperature and pressure. 2 an apparatus using superheated steam for sterilizing, cooking etc.  
**autocracy** (aw'tok'rəsi) *n.* (*pl. autocracies*) 1 absolute government by a single person. 2 the power wielded by an autocrat. 3 a country under autocratic rule.  
**autocrat** (aw'təkrat) *n.* 1 a sovereign with uncontrolled authority. 2 a dictatorial person.  
**autocratic** (-krat-) *a.* absolute, despotic. **autocratically** *adv.*  
 ■ *a.* absolute, all-powerful, bossy, despotic, dictatorial, domineering, high-handed, imperious, oppressive, tyrannical. **ANTONYMS:** lenient.  
**autocross** (aw'təkros) *n.* the sport of motor racing across country or on unmade roads.  
**Autocue**® (aw'təkū) *n.* a device that displays the text to be spoken by a person on television.  
**auto-da-fé** (aw'tədāfə) *n.* (*pl. autos-da-fé* (aw'tō-)) 1 a sentence pronounced by the Inquisition. 2 the execution of this judgement. 3 the burning of a heretic.  
**autodidact** (aw'tōdī'dakt) *n.* a self-taught person. **autodidactic** (-didak-) *a.*  
**auto-erotism** (aw'təer'ətizm), **auto-eroticism** (-irət-) *n.* (*Psych.*) self-produced sexual pleasure or emotion, e.g. masturbation. **auto-erotic** (-irət-) *a.*  
**autofocus** (aw'tōfōkəs) *n.* a facility in some cameras for automatically focusing the lens.  
**autogamy** (aw'tog'əmi) *n.* (*Bot.*) self-fertilization. **autogamous** *a.*  
**autogenous** (aw'toj'ənes) *a.* 1 self-engendered, self-produced, independent. 2 (of a graft, vaccine) originating from sources within the patient's own body.  
**autogiro** (aw'tōjirō), **autogyro** *n.* (*pl. autogiros, autogyros*) an aircraft in which the lifting surfaces are the freely-rotating blades of a large horizontal airscrew.  
**autograft** (aw'təgrəft) *n.* a surgical graft that moves tissue from one point to another in the same individual's body.  
**autograph** (aw'təgrəhf) *n.* 1 a signature written esp. by a celebrity for an admirer. 2 a person's own handwriting. 3 a manuscript in an author's own handwriting. ~*a.* written by the author. ~*v.t.* 1 to write one's signature on or in, esp. at the request of an admirer. 2 to write with one's own hand.  
**autographic** (-grəf-), **autographical** *a.* 1 written by one's own hand. 2 of or relating to autographs or autography.  
**autography** (-tog-) *n.* 1 writing with one's own hand. 2 one's own handwriting. 3 a process of reproducing handwriting or drawing in facsimile.  
**Autoharp**® (aw'tōhəp) *n.* a zither-like instrument having dampers which stop selected strings from sounding and allow chords to be played.  
**autoimmune** (aw'tōimūn) *a.* (*Med.*) of or caused by antibodies that attack the molecules, cells etc. normally present in the organism producing them. **autoimmunity** *n.*  
**autointoxication** (aw'tōintoksikā'shən) *n.* (*Med.*) reabsorption of toxic matter produced by the body.  
**autolysis** (aw'tol'isis) *n.* the breakdown of cells by the action of enzymes produced in the cells themselves. **autolytic** (-lit-) *a.*

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## autostrada

**automat** (aw'təmat) *n.* 1 a vending machine. 2 (*N.Am.*) a restaurant or room equipped with automatic machines for supplying food etc.  
**automate** (aw't-) *v.t.* to make automatic; to bring automation to. ~*v.i.* to apply automation.  
**automatic** (aw'təmat'ik) *a.* 1 operating without direct or continuous human intervention. 2 (of actions, behaviour) spontaneous, reflex. 3 (*derog.*) (of actions, behaviour) habitual, merely mechanical. 4 certain, unavoidable. 5 (*Psych.*) carried on unconsciously. 6 (of a firearm) repeatedly ejecting the empty shell, introducing a new one and firing, until the trigger is released. 7 (of a vehicle) having automatic transmission. ~*n.* 1 an automatic firearm. 2 a motor vehicle with automatic transmission. **automatically** *adv.* **automaticity** (-tis-) *n.*  
 ■ *a.* 1 automated, mechanical, mechanized, push-button, self-acting, self-activating, self-regulating. **ANTONYMS:** hand-operated, manual. 2 instinctive, involuntary, mechanical, reflex, spontaneous, unconscious. **ANTONYMS:** deliberate, intentional, voluntary. 4 certain, ineluctable, inescapable, inevitable, routine, unavoidable. **ANTONYMS:** avoidable.  
**automatic pilot** *n.* a device which automatically maintains an aircraft or spacecraft on a predetermined course.  
**automatic transmission** *n.* power transmission in a motor vehicle in which the gears change automatically.  
**automation** (aw'təmə'shən) *n.* 1 the use of self-regulating or automatically programmed machines in the manufacture of goods. 2 the introduction of such machinery to save labour.  
**automatism** (aw'təm'ətizm) *n.* 1 the quality of being automatic. 2 involuntary action. 3 (*Psych.*) the performance of actions without conscious control. 4 automatic routine.  
**automatize, automatise** *v.t.* 1 to make automatic. 2 to automate. **automatization** (-zā'shən) *n.*  
**automaton** (aw'təm'əʃən) *n.* (*pl. automatons, automata* (-tə)) 1 a machine that is activated by a concealed mechanism and power source within itself, a robot. 2 a machine of this kind that simulates human or animal actions. 3 a person who acts mechanically or leads a life of monotonous routine.  
**automobile** (aw'təməbēl', aw'-) *n.* (*esp. N.Am.*) a motor car.  
**automotive** (aw'təm'ətiv) *a.* 1 self-propelling. 2 of or relating to motor vehicles.  
**autonomic** (-nom-) *a.* 1 (*Biol.*) occurring involuntarily, spontaneous. 2 of, relating to or mediated by the autonomic nervous system.  
**autonomic nervous system** *n.* the part of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates the involuntary actions of the heart, glands and some muscles.  
**autonomist** *n.* an advocate of autonomy.  
**autonomous** *a.* 1 of or possessing autonomy. 2 self-governing or partially self-governing. 3 able to act or acting independently. **autonomously** *adv.*  
 ■ *a.* 2 independent, self-governing, self-ruling. **ANTONYMS:** dependent, subsidiary.  
**autonomy** (aw'ton'əmi) *n.* (*pl. autonomies*) 1 the right of self-government. 2 an independent state or community. 3 freedom to act as one pleases. 4 in Kantian philosophy, freedom of the will. 5 organic independence.  
 ■ *n.* 1 home rule, independence, self-government, self-rule. **ANTONYMS:** dependency.  
**autopilot** (aw'tōpīlāt) *n.* **AUTOMATIC PILOT**.  
**autopista** (aw'tōpēs'ta) *n.* a motorway in Spain.  
**autopsy** (aw'topsi, -top-) *n.* (*pl. autopsies*) 1 a post-mortem examination. 2 a critical examination. 3 a personal observation. ~*v.t.* (*3rd pers. sing. pres. autopsies, pres.p. autopsying, past, p.p. autopsied*) to perform a post-mortem examination on.  
 ■ *n.* 1 post-mortem, post-mortem examination. **ANTONYMS:** biopsy.  
**autoradiograph** (aw'tōrā'diəgrəhf) *n.* a photograph produced by radiation from, and showing the distribution of, radioactive particles in a body. **autoradiographic** (-grəf'ik) *a.* **autoradiography** (-og'rəfi) *n.*  
**autorotation** (aw'tōrōtā'shən) *n.* rotation resulting from the shape or structure of an object in an airflow, not from a power source. **autorotate** *v.i.*  
**autoroute** (aw'tōrōot) *n.* a motorway in France.  
**autostrada** (aw'tōstrəhdə) *n.* a motorway in Italy.

## autosugg

**autosuggest**  
 self, esp. the condition etc.  
**autotelic** (aw'tətelik) *a.*  
**autotimer**  
 appliance, e.  
**autotomy** (aw'tətomē) *n.*  
 the body, e.g.  
**autotoxic** (aw'tətoksik) *a.*  
**autotoxin** (aw'tətoksin) *n.*  
 it attacks.  
**autotrophic**  
 capable of m  
 by photosyn  
**autotype** (aw'tətaip) *n.*  
 process for r  
 by this proc  
**autowinder**  
 automaticall  
 been taken.  
**autoxidatic**  
 spontaneous  
**autumn** (av  
 summer and  
 nal equinox  
 months from  
 and from Me  
 or incipient  
**autumnal** (-  
 in autumn. 2  
**autumn**  
 when the su  
 22 Sept. in  
 southern).  
**autumn cr**  
 saffron.  
**auxiliary** (i  
 3 applied to  
 auxiliaries)  
 2 (*Gram.*) ar  
 the service  
 assists, esp.  
 ■ *a.* 1 aiding,  
 ancillary, re  
 ary. **ANTONYM:**  
**auxiliary ve**  
 verbs.  
**auxin** (awk  
 hormones.  
**auxology** (-  
 ologist *n.*  
**AV** abbr. 1 au  
**Av.** abbr. ave  
**avadavat** (av  
 SE Asian wi  
**avail** (əvāl')  
 helpful. 3 to  
 age to. ~*n.*  
 effectual, in  
 use of.  
**available** (i  
 disposal. 2  
 tactable. 4 (i  
 n. available)  
 ■ *a.* 1 at one's  
 ready, ready  
 2 accessible  
 reach. **ANTO**  
**avalanche** (i  
 or sliding  
 overwhelmi  
 avalanche.  
**avant-gard**  
 tastes or trer

## wheatgrass

## wheatgrass

**wheatgrass** *n.* couch grass.

**wheatmeal** *n.* flour containing much of the original wheat grain. ~*a.* made from such flour.

**whet** (*wē*) *int.* used to express delight or excitement.

**wheel** (*wē*) *v.t.* 1 to entice, to win over, to persuade by coaxing or flattery. 2 to cheat by cajolery. 3 to obtain from or get (out of) by coaxing and flattery. **wheel** *n.* **wheeling** *a.* **wheelingly** *adv.*

■ *v.t.* 1 (*coll.*) butter up, cajole, charm, coax, entice, flatter, induce, inveigle, persuade, talk (someone) into.

**wheel** (*wē*) *n.* 1 a circular frame or solid disc turning on its axis, used in vehicles, machinery etc. to reduce friction and facilitate motion. 2 a machine, implement, device etc. consisting principally of a wheel, such as a spinning wheel, potter's wheel, steering wheel etc. 3 an object resembling a wheel, a disc. 4 (*pl., coll.*) a car. 5 (*N Am., coll.*) a bicycle. 6 a Catherine wheel. 7 a turn, a revolution. 8 the turning or swinging round of a body of troops or a line of warships as on a pivot. 9 a set of short lines at the end of a stanza. ~*v.t.* 1 to move or push (a wheeled vehicle etc.) in some direction. 2 to cause to wheel. ~*v.i.* 1 to turn or swing round as on a pivot. 2 to change direction or objective, to face another way. 3 to go round, to circle, to gyrate. **at the wheel** 1 driving a motor vehicle. 2 steering a vessel. 3 directing, in control, in charge. **to wheel and deal** to be a wheeler-dealer. **wheels within wheels** 1 intricate machinery. 2 (*coll.*) concealed reasons or interdependent circumstances. **wheelless** *a.* **wheely** *a.*

■ *v.t.* 1 push, shove, trundle. ~*v.i.* 1 spin round, swing round, turn round, whirl round. 3 circle, go round, gyrate, revolve, rotate.

**wheel-back** *a.* (of a chair) having a back shaped like a wheel.

**wheelbarrow** *n.* a barrow usu. supported on a single wheel, with two handles by which it is wheeled.

**wheelbase** *n.* the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle.

**wheelchair** *n.* a chair on wheels, esp. for invalids or disabled people.

**wheel clamp** *n.* a clamp fixed on to the wheel of an illegally parked car to prevent it from being driven away before a fine is paid. **wheel-clamp** *v.t.*

**wheeled** *a.* having wheels (*usu. in comb., as four-wheeled*).

**wheeler** *n.* 1 a person who wheels. 2 a wheelwright. 3 (*in comb.*) a vehicle with the specified number of wheels (*a three-wheeler*).

**wheeler-dealer** *n.* a person who operates shrewdly and often ruthlessly in business, politics etc. **wheeler-dealing** *n.*

**wheelhouse** *n.* a shelter for the steersman on a boat.

**wheelie** (*n.*) a manoeuvre in which a bicycle or motorcycle is briefly supported on the rear wheel alone.

**wheelie bin, wheely bin** *n. (coll.)* a large plastic dustbin with two wheels so that it can be tilted and wheeled to the dustcart, where it is emptied automatically.

**wheelspin** *n.* the revolution of wheels without a grip of the road.

**wheelwright** *n.* a person whose occupation is to make or repair wheels etc.

**whet** (*wē*) *v.i.* to breathe hard and with an audible sound, as in asthma. ~*v.t.* to utter thus. ~*n.* 1 a wheezing sound. 2 (*coll.*) a joke, a trick. 3 (*coll.*) a design, a scheme. **whetzer** *n.* **whetzy** *a.* **whetizily** *adv.* **whetiness** *n.*

■ *v.i.* breathe noisily, breathe roughly, gasp, hiss, rasp, whistle. ~*n.* 3 design, expedient, idea, plan, plot, ploy, ruse, scheme, stunt, trick.

**whelk** (*welk*) *n.* a marine spiral-shelled gastropod of the family Buccinidae, esp. the common whelk, used for food.

**whelp** (*welp*) *n.* 1 the young of a dog, a pup. 2 the young of a beast of prey, a cub. 3 an offensive or ill-bred child or youth. 4 (*usu. pl.*) a ridge on the drum of a capstan or windlass. ~*v.i.* (of a bitch etc.) to give birth to young. ~*v.t.* 1 to give birth to (a pup or cub). 2 (*derog.*) to originate or produce.

**when** (*wen*) *adv.* 1 (*interrog.*) at what or which time? 2 (*rel.*) at which (time). ~*conj.* 1 at the time that, at any time that. 2 as soon as. 3 just after the time that. 4 after which, and then. 5 although. 6 considering that. 7 while (*often with pres.p.*). ~*pron.* what or which time. ~*n.* the time or date.

**whence** (*wens*) *adv. (formal)* 1 (*interrog.*) from what place? where from? how? 2 (*rel.*) from which place, origin, source etc. ~*conj.* 1 to

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## whiffle

or at the place from which. 2 for which reason, wherefore. ~*pron.* what or which place or starting point.

**whenever** (*-ev'ə*), (*poet.*) **whene'er** (*-eə'*) *adv., conj.* at whatever time. **or whenever** (*coll.*) or at any similar or suitable time.

**whensoever**, (*poet.*) **whensoe'er** *adv., conj. (formal)* whenever.

**where** (*weə*) *adv.* 1 (*interrog.*) at or in what place, situation, case, circumstances? 2 (*interrog.*) to what place? in what direction? 3 (*rel.*) in which (place or places). ~*conj.* 1 in or to the place, direction etc. in which. 2 whereas. ~*pron.* what or which place. ~*n.* the place (*the where and when*).

**whereabouts** *adv.* near what or which place roughly? ~*n.* the approximate location of a person or thing.

■ *n.* locality, location, place, position, site, situation.

**whereafter** (*wearə'h'f'tə*) *conj. (formal)* after which.

**whereas** (*wearəz*) *conj.* 1 the fact on the contrary being that, when in reality. 2 in legal preambles etc., the fact or case being that, considering that.

**whereby** (*-bi'*) *conj.* by which.

**wherefore** *adv.* 1 for what reason? why? 2 for which reason, on which account. ~*n. (coll.)* the reason why.

**wherein** (*wearin'*) *adv. (formal)* in what place or respect? ~*conj.* in which thing, place, respect etc.

**whereof** (*wearov'*) *adv. (formal)* of what? ~*conj.* of which or whom.

**wheresoever**, (*poet.*) **wheresoe'er** *adv., conj. (formal)* wherever.

**whereupon** (*wearəpən*) *conj.* 1 upon which. 2 in consequence of or immediately after which.

**wherever** (*wearəv'ə*), (*poet.*) **where'er** (*-eə'*) *adv., conj.* at, in or to whatever place. **or wherever** (*coll.*) or in any similar or suitable place.

**wherewith** (*-widh'*) *adv. (formal)* with what? ~*conj.* with which.

**wherewithal** *adv., conj.* wherewith. ~*n. (coll.)* the necessary means or resources, esp. money.

■ *n. (sl.)* bread, capital, cash, (*sl.*) dough, finance, funds, means, money, ready money, reserves, resources, (*coll.*) the readies.

**wherry** (*werr'i*) *n. (pl. wherries)* 1 a light shallow rowing boat for plying on rivers. 2 a type of barge.

**whet** (*wet*) *v.t. (pres.p. whetting, past, p.p. whetted)* 1 to sharpen by rubbing on a stone or similar substance. 2 to excite, to stimulate (*to whet the appetite*). ~*n.* 1 the act of whetting. 2 anything taken to whet or stimulate the appetite. 3 a small quantity. **whetter** *n.*

■ *v.t.* 1 edge, hone, put an edge on, sharpen, strop. 2 arouse, excite, kindle, rouse, stimulate, stir, titillate.

**whether** (*wedh'ə*) *conj.* introducing (an indirect question in the form of) an alternative clause followed by an alternative *or, or not, or or whether*, or with the alternative unexpressed (*whether you like it or not*). **whether or no** 1 in any case. 2 which (of two opposite cases).

**whetstone** *n.* 1 a piece of stone used for sharpening cutlery etc. 2 anything that sharpens or stimulates.

**whew** (*hwū, fū*) *int.* used to express relief, astonishment or consternation.

**whet** (*wā*) *n.* the watery part of milk that remains after the curds have formed and been separated.

**whet-face** *n.* a pale-faced person. **whet-faced** *a.*

**which** (*wich*) *pron.* 1 (*interrog.*) what person, thing or persons or things of a definite number. 2 (*rel.*) used in a subordinate clause to represent a noun expressed or understood in the principal sentence or previous clause. 3 (*rel.*) used after a preposition or after *that* (*the ladder on which she was standing*). ~*a.* 1 (*interrog.*) what (person, thing etc.) of a definite number. 2 (*rel.*) used with a noun defining an indefinite antecedent. **which is which** used when people or things are difficult to tell apart.

**whichever, whichever** *pron.* 1 which person or thing of two or more. 2 no matter which person or thing. ~*a.* 1 which of two or more. 2 no matter which.

**whiff** (*wif*) *n.* 1 a sudden expulsion of smoke etc., a puff, a light gust, esp. one carrying an odour. 2 a small amount, a trace. ~*v.i.* 1 to puff or blow lightly. 2 (*coll.*) to smell (unpleasant). ~*v.t.* 1 to puff or blow lightly. 2 to detect a faint odour of, to sniff, to smell.

■ *n.* 1 blast, draught, gust, puff. 2 hint, soupçon, suggestion, suspicion, trace.

**whiffle** (*wifl'*) *v.i.* 1 (of the wind etc.) to veer about. 2 to change from one opinion or course to another, to prevaricate, to equivocate. 3 to flicker, to flutter. ~*v.t.* to blow lightly. **whiffler** *n.*